

# PATENT SPECIFICATION

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## DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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## (54) TACKY FLOOR-MATS WITH IMPROVED SHEET SEPARATING MEANS

(71) I, JOHN JOSEPH NAPPI, a citizen of the United States of America, of 80 Beckley Road, Berlin, Connecticut, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to tacky floor-mats of the type employing a stack of pressure sensitive adhesive coated sheets such as disclosed in my prior United States patent No. 3,083,393 and my United Kingdom patent Specification No. 1,138,103.

In prior art tacky floor-mats of the pressure sensitive type the conventional practice has been to provide a tab of release paper material between adjacent sheets at or near the corner of the stack to permit an initial finger hold to be obtained for peeling the used sheets from the top of the stack. By the nature of pressure sensitive adhesives the stack of sheets becomes increasingly more tightly bonded as the pedestrian traffic passes thereover due to the high unit pressure with which the feet of the users compress the sheets and the time duration in which the sheets are held in adhesive contact. Thus it has been found that it is extremely difficult at times to separate a single sheet from the top of the stack, since when only one corner of the stack is freed by the release paper interleaf, it is possible to grip mistakenly two or more sheets and thus considerable waste is involved. It is also inconvenient to peel tightly bonded sheets when only a corner is freed by the release agent, since until a complete side has been freed from adhesive bond, the matter of gripping and starting a progressive peeling action presents some considerable difficulty to the maintenance personnel who are required to change the soiled top sheets.

According to the present invention there is provided a tacky floor-mat for adhesively cleaning the soles of shoes or the like as users move over the exposed top surface of

the mat, comprising a stack of pliable peelable pressure sensitive adhesive coated sheets stacked adhesive side up to provide a tread surface; each of which sheets, except for the top sheet in said stack, is adhered to the undersurface of the next higher sheet in said stack and exposed for use in succession as the sheets are peeled from the top of said stack; a strand between two adjacent adhered sheets of said stack and protruding from one edge of said stack, said strand separating the adhesive bond between said adjacent adhered sheets when said strand is pulled; and means for retaining the bottom surface of said stack on a supporting surface against the upward pull of a shoe or the like adhered to the top sheet.

Thus, in accordance with the present invention, the peeling of adhesively bonded sheets is rendered relatively simple and at the same time assurance is provided that only a single sheet will be released for peeling thereby preventing the costly practice of disposing of two or more adhered sheets when only the top soiled sheet is intended to be discarded. At the same time the peeling operation is simplified since the present invention in a preferred form permits the releasing of a substantial edge portion of the soiled top sheet.

Specific embodiments of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a tacky floor-mat as employed in a conventional tacky floor-mat frame in accordance with my first-mentioned prior patent, and embodying the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of an insert corresponding to said prior patent and showing the action of the release means in separating the end of the top sheet in the stack in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view in section showing details of the construction of the insert of Fig. 2.

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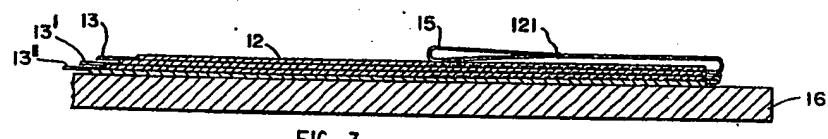
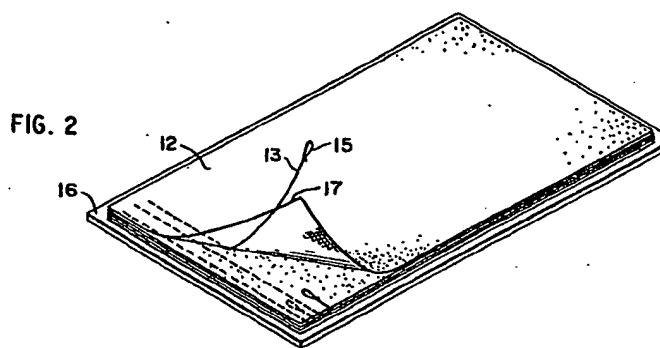
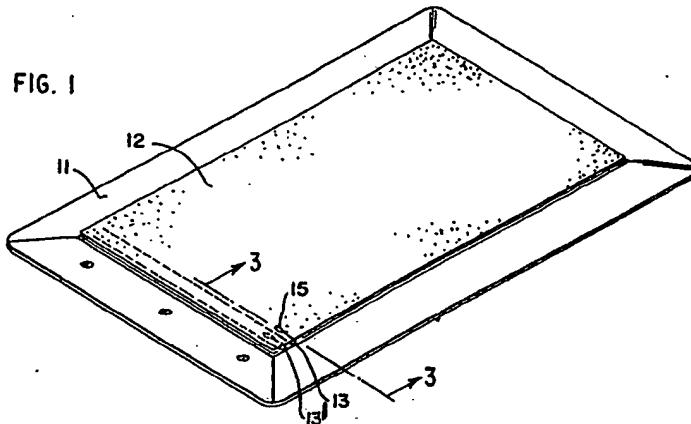
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1243445    COMPLETE SPECIFICATION  
2 SHEETS    *This drawing is a reproduction of  
the Original on a reduced scale*  
Sheet 1



1243445    COMPLETE SPECIFICATION  
2 SHEETS    *This drawing is a reproduction of  
the Original on a reduced scale  
Sheet 2*

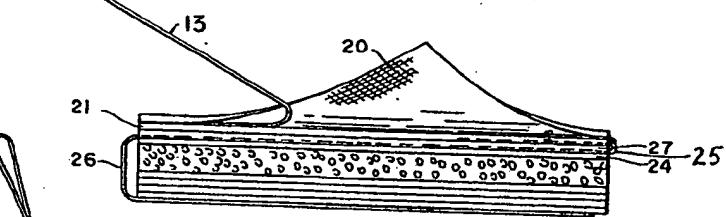
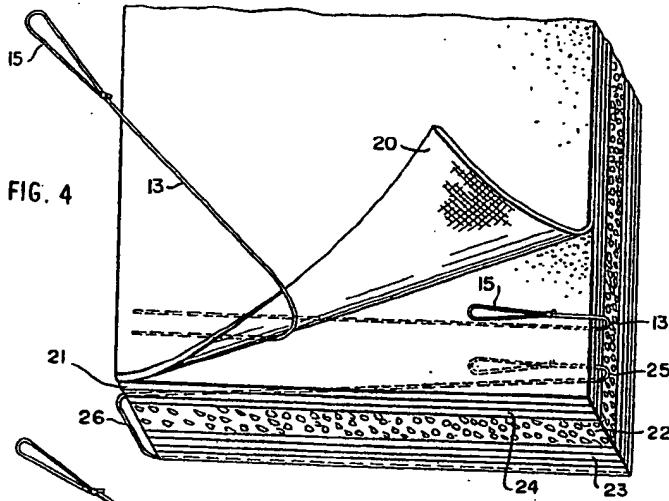


FIG. 5

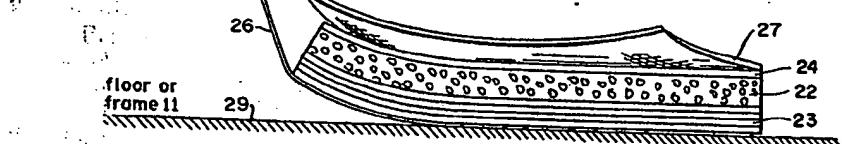
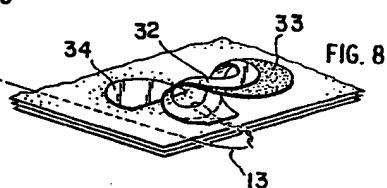


FIG. 6

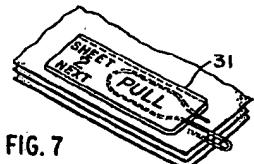


FIG. 7